

Present:

Tim Bennett, Chair
Trish Bella, Vice-Chair
Bob Harris, Trustee
Brenda Hooker, Trustee
(telephone/Skype)
Sharel Warrington, Trustee
Bruce Wiebe, Trustee

Marilyn Marquis-Forster, Superintendent of Schools
Allan Reed, Secretary Treasurer
Diane Nygaard, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Absent:

Tony Cable, Trustee

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Additions to the agenda:

School District News (T. Bella)

The agenda was approved as amended.

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Sharon MacDermott a member of the Prince George District Teachers' Association and British Columbia Music Educators Association provided an overview of the history of Singfest, a non-competitive adjudicated choral music festival. Ms. MacDermott stated that due to the shortage of Teachers' Teaching on Call, the school district is unable to provide coverage for release days required to drive the adjudicator to the schools during the event. She advised that if TTOC coverage is not provided the event will have to be cancelled. Ms. MacDermott provided Trustees with letters from other School District No. 57 music teacher requesting support music programs and the approval for an Arts Resource Teacher in the school district.

Joanne Hapke representing the Prince George District Teachers' Association stated that support teachers are being reassigned to classrooms when Teachers Teaching on Call are not available to cover approved teacher leaves. Ms. Hapke stated that support teachers have reported that there have been a number of days during this school year that have left schools without support systems for students. She requested that the Board of Education advise the Ministry of Education that a quick solution for recruitment and retention issues is required.

Gillian Burnett representing the District Parents' Advisory Council reported that a group of parents recently received Foodsafe certification to participate in programs within our schools. Ms. Burnett advised that the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Council will be hosting the 2017 District Parent Advisory Council Fall Summit on November 24th and 25th. She noted that each DPAC may designate two delegates to attend the event.

4. **SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS**

4.1 Prince George Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards 2017

Trustee Bella congratulated Tim Bennett on receiving the Business Person of the Year Award for his role with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Prince George.

4.2 College Heights Elementary School

Trustee Bella reported that Mayor Hall, Fire Chief Iverson and Manager of Aquatics Jim Worthington, made a presentation to the students of College Heights Elementary School in response to the school's request to receive information on municipal government referendums. Ms. Bella stated the presentation was well received and much appreciated by the students and staff.

5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

5.1 Public Meeting

The minutes of the regular public meeting of September 26, 2017 were adopted as circulated.

5.2 Record of In Camera Meeting Minutes

The report on the items discussed and decisions made at the Regular In Camera meeting of September 26, 2017 and Special In Camera Meetings of October 10, 2017 was approved.

6. PRESENTATION**6.1 Early Learning**

Kap Manhas, District Principal, Learning Innovations and Andrea Maurice, Early Learning Coordinator presented a PowerPoint presentation on the early learning initiatives, programs and collaborations within the School District. The presentation focused on how the school district's early learning opportunities are linked and supported by the School District's strategic goals in the areas of Learning, Engagement and Opportunity.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**7.1 Overnight Accommodation in Schools**

The Superintendent provided an update on the motion approved at the regular public meeting held June 20, 2017 that directed the Superintendent to work with the Facilities Services Department to ensure a workable solution be found for out of town student team/groups to stay overnight in a school in Prince George, Mackenzie, McBride and Valemount.

Ms. Marquis-Forster reported that feedback was collected from secondary principals regarding the feasibility of overnight accommodation for students and staff in their respective school, an overview of the criteria required for students and staff to safely stay in a facility that was not designed for overnight accommodation provided by the Facility Services Department was shared with Trustees at a meeting held earlier this evening. She noted that more discussion is required with staff and that funding is currently available in school budgets to offset the cost of the overnight accommodation for students.

8. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**8.1 Committee Report**

Trustee Warrington reported on the Management and Finance Committee meeting held on October 16, 2017.

Ms. Warrington advised that the committee completed their review of draft Policy 3170 Budget Development, Monitoring and Reporting and reviewed the policy statement, definitions and preamble of draft Policy 3433.2 Accumulated Operating Surplus. Other agenda items included the review of the 2016/2017 appropriated operating surplus, the analysis of the ten year history of accumulated operating surplus and the analysis of Trustee travel expenses.

9. EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**9.1 Committee Report**

Trustee Bella reported on the Education Programs and Planning Committee meeting held on October 17, 2017. Agenda items included a presentation providing updates on the Comprehensive Academic Intervention Strategy (CAIS), After School Academic Proficiency Program (ASAP), and the District Awards program.

Other agenda items included a presentation on Early Learning that was presented at this evening's meeting.

10. POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**10.1 Committee Report**

Trustee Bella reported on the Policy and Governance Committee meeting held on October 3, 2017. Agenda items included the review of a draft policy on Energy and Sustainable Conservation that was referred to senior administration for review and an update from the Superintendent regarding legal advice requested by the committee on feedback received related to Policy 4112.5 Administrative Appointments. Ms. Bella advised the committee will continue the review of these draft policies at the November committee meeting.

10.2 Policy 1160 Role of the Board – Appendix A

Trustee Bella reviewed the recommendation and rationale included in the agenda package

MOVED and SECONDED

That the revised Board Annual Work Plan be received.

CARRIED

All Trustees that were present voted in favour of the motion.

11. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**11.1 Superintendent of Schools**

The Superintendent reviewed her response to issues raised by community members during the public input portion of the September 26, 2017 regular public meeting that was included in the agenda package.

12. TRUSTEE REPORTS

12.1 BC School Trustees' Association

Trustee Warrington provided an overview of the BCSTA Provincial Council held on October 27 and 28, 2017. Agenda items included BCSTA audited financial statement to June 30, 2017, 2018/19 Budget planning, Policy on Travel Expenses, motions to provincial council and an Issues Forum.

Trustee Warrington reported on the BCSTA Northern Interior Branch meeting held in Dawson Creek on October 13 and 14, 2017. Agenda items included a question and answer period with the Minister of Education, a presentation from School District No. 59 on building capacity, and a presentation regarding bargaining.

12.2 District Parent Advisory Council

Trustee Harris reported on the District Parent Advisory Council meeting held on October 2, 2017. Agenda items included a presentation by Heather Gloster, Youth Services Librarian on the programs offered at the Prince George Public Library, an overview of the school district's policy and procedures regarding the administration of medicine to students at schools and a staffing update.

12.3 District Student Advisory Council

Trustee Wiebe reported on the District Student Advisory Council meeting held on October 2, 2017. Agenda items included the review of the council's mission statement, 2017/18 agenda planning, a review of Policy 5131.2 Student Conduct Review Committee and Policy 1160 Role of the Board, and assignment of representatives at standing committee meeting of the Board.

12.4 Ministry of Education 3rd Annual Partner Liaison Meeting and British Columbia School Trustees' Association Chairs Meeting

Trustee Bella reported that the Ministry of Education's the 3rd Annual Partner Liaison Meeting was held on October 25, 2017. She advised that she will forward the slide presentation to Trustees.

Trustee Bella reported on the BCSTA meeting of Board Chairs held on October 26, 2017. Agenda items included presentations on media relations and interview training, and natural disaster response to catastrophic earthquakes.

13. **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer